GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:236
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
POWER THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY
LAXMAN GILUWA;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide power connection to all villages through renewable energy sources to attain sustainable development goals; and

(b) if so, the details of efforts and investments made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a)& (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a)&(b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 236 TO BE ANSWE ON 06.03.2003 REGARDING POWER THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY.

(a) & (b) : There are about 80,000 unelectrified villages in the country of which about 18,000 villages are in remote and difficult areas where it would not be cost effective to provide electricity through conventional grid. Providing electricity to all villages through renewable energy sources would not be a practical option in the foreseeable future. A new programme for providing electricity to the 18,000 remote villages was initiated in 2001-02 during which an expenditure of Rs.20 crores was incurred. About 800 villages have been electrified through renewable energy in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. A target of electrifying 5,000 such villages has been fixed for the 10th Plan period with an outlay of Rs.735 crores.

Renewable energy systems like solar photovoltaic systems and power plants, small hydro units and biomass gasifiers, which use locally available renewable energy resources, have been identified as the most suitable options for electrification of remote villages and hamlets. Such systems have already been developed indigenously and are being deployed under the Ministry`s programme. By their environment - friendly nature, they contribute to sustainable development. Recently, the Ministry of Power has also constituted a Rural Electricity Supply Technology (REST) Mission to evolve a strategy based on technology for low cost generation and delivery of power in rural areas.